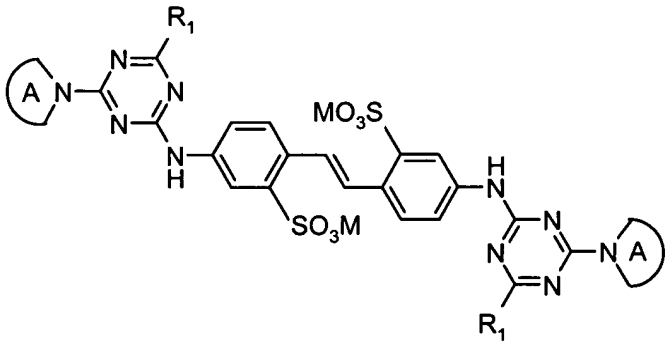
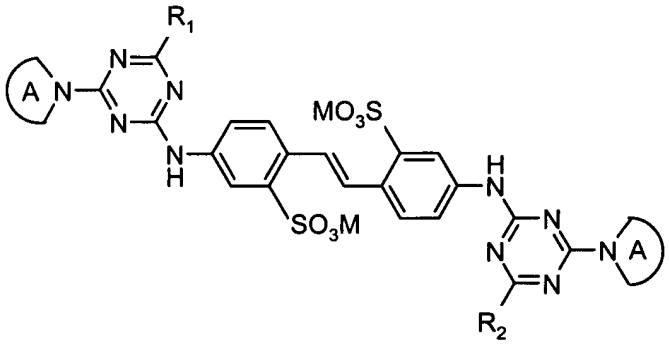
IN THE CLAIMS

The text of all claims under examination is submitted, and the status of each is identified. This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

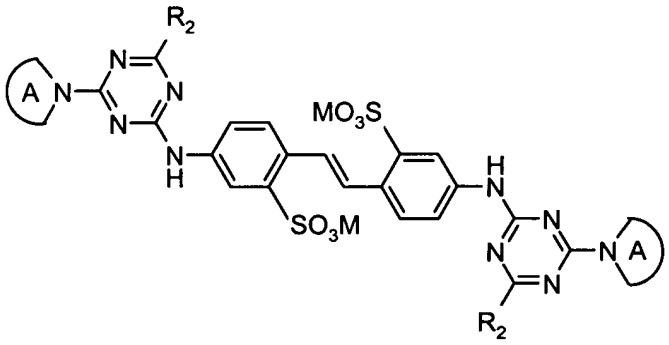
1. **(Original):** A fluorescent whitening agent, which comprises a mixture of compounds of the formulae



(1a),



(1b) and



(1c),

in which

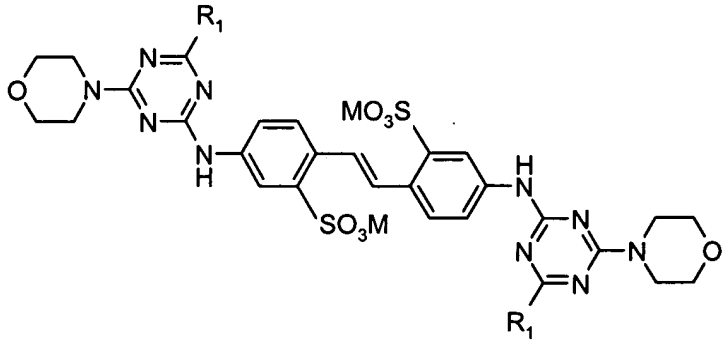
R_1 and R_2 are different and each represents $-NH_2$, $-NHC_1$-C_4alkyl, $-N(C_1$-C_4alkyl$)_2$,

-NHC_2-C_4 hydroxyalkyl, -$N(C_2$-C_4hydroxyalkyl$)_2$, -$N(C_1$-C_4alkyl$)(C_2$-C_4 hydroxyalkyl), a morpholino residue or an amino acid or an amino acid amide residue from which a hydrogen atom has been removed from the amino group, each of the rings designated as

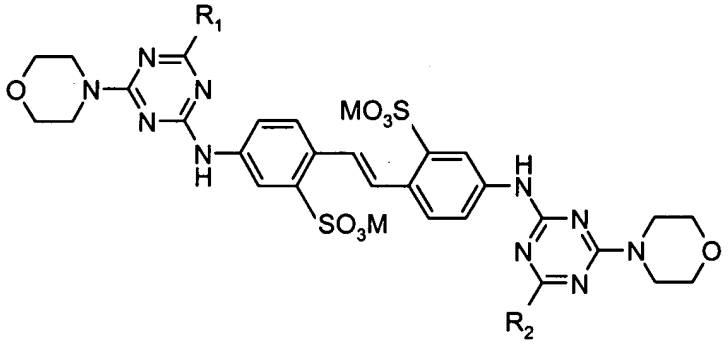
A represent a 5- or 6-membered saturated heterocycle, which may contain one further heteroatom and

M represents hydrogen, an alkali metal atom, ammonium or a cation formed from an amine.

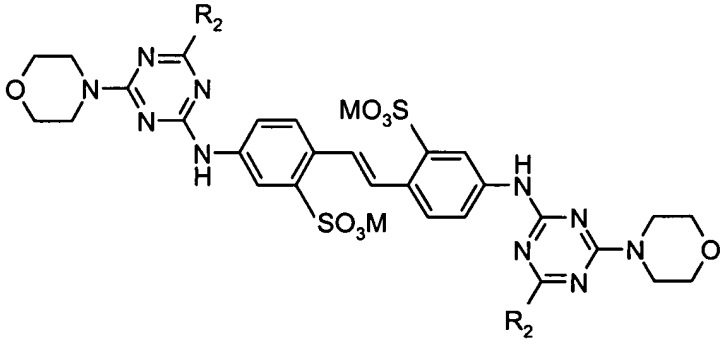
2. **(original):** A fluorescent whitening agent, according to claim 1, which comprises a mixture of compounds of the formulae



(2a),



(2b) and



(2c),

in which

R_1, R_2 and M are as defined in claim 1.

3. **(currently amended):** A composition according to ~~claims~~ claim 1 ~~or 2~~, in which the aliphatic amino acid or amino acid amide residue is of the formula

$-NR_3-CH(CO_2H)-R_3$ (3) or $-NR_3-CH_2CH_2CONH_2$ (4),

in which each

R_3 and $R_{3'}$, independently, represent hydrogen or a group having the formula

$-CHR_4R_5$ in which

R_4 and R_5, independently, are hydrogen or C_1-C_4alkyl optionally substituted by one or two substituents selected from the group consisting of hydroxy, thio, methylthio, amino, carboxy, sulfo, phenyl, 4-hydroxyphenyl, 3,5-diiodo-4-hydroxyphenyl, β-indolyl, β-imidazolyl and $NH=C(NH_2)NH$-.

4. **(original):** A composition according to claim 3, in which residues R_1 and/or R_2 are derived from glycine, alanine, sarcosine, serine, cysteine, phenylalanine, tyrosine (4-hydroxyphenylalanine), diiodotyrosine, tryptophan (β-indolylalanine), histidine ((β-imidazolylalanine), α-aminobutyric acid, methionine, valine (α-aminoisovaleric acid), norvaline, leucine (α-aminoisocaproic acid), isoleucine (α-amino-β-methylvaleric acid), norleucine (α-amino-n-caproic acid), arginine, ornithine (α,δ-diaminovaleric acid), lysine (α,ε-diaminocaproic acid), aspartic acid (aminosuccinic acid), glutamic acid (α-aminoglutaric acid), threonine, hydroxyglutamic acid and taurine, as well as mixtures and optical isomers thereof, or from iminodiacetic acid or from N-(propionamido)-N-(2-hydroxyethyl)amine.

5. **(currently amended):** A composition according to ~~claims~~ claim 1 ~~or 2~~, in which

R_1 and R_2 represent $-N(C_1-C_4alkyl)_2$, $-NHC_2-C_4$hydroxyalkyl, $-N(C_2-C_4$ hydroxyalkyl$)_2$, $-N(C_1-C_4alkyl)(C_2-C_4$hydroxyalkyl), a morpholino residue or a residue derived from glycine, sarcosine, taurine, glutamic acid, aspartic acid, iminodiacetic acid or from N-(propionamido)-N-(2-hydroxyethyl)amine.

6. **(original):** A composition according to claim 5 in which

R_1 represents a mono-(2-hydroxyethyl)amino, a di-(2-hydroxyethyl)amino, a di-(2-hydroxypropyl)amino, a diethylamino, an N-(2-hydroxyethyl)-N-methylamino, a morpholino, an N-(propionamido)-N-(2-hydroxyethyl)amino or a sarcosine residue and

R_2 represents an aspartic acid or a glycine residue.

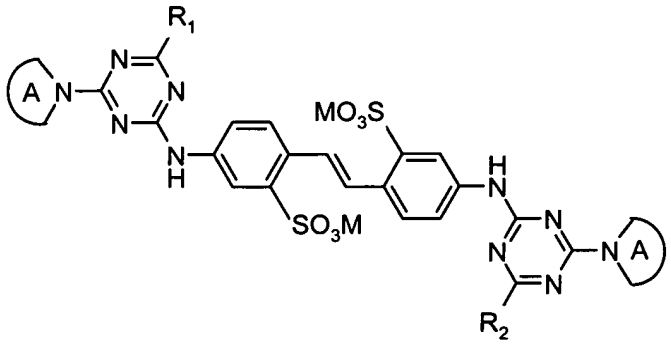
7. **(currently amended):** A composition according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 6~~, in which

M represents hydrogen, lithium, potassium, sodium, ammonium, mono-, di-, tri- or tetra-C_1-C_4alkylammonium, mono-, di- or tri-C_1-C_4hydroxyalkylammonium or ammonium that is di- or tri-substituted with a mixture of C_1-C_4alkyl and C_1-C_4hydroxyalkyl groups.

8. **(original):** A composition according to claim 7, in which
M represents hydrogen, potassium or sodium.

9. **(original):** A process for the preparation of the compound mixture of formulae (1a), (1b) and (1c) by reacting, under known reaction conditions, cyanuric chloride, successively, in any desired sequence, with each of 4,4'-diaminostilbene-2,2'-disulphonic acid, an appropriate heterocyclic compound, an amino compound R_1H and an amino compound R_2H, or, alternatively a mixture of amino compounds R_1H and R_2H, R_1 and R_2 being as defined in claim 1.

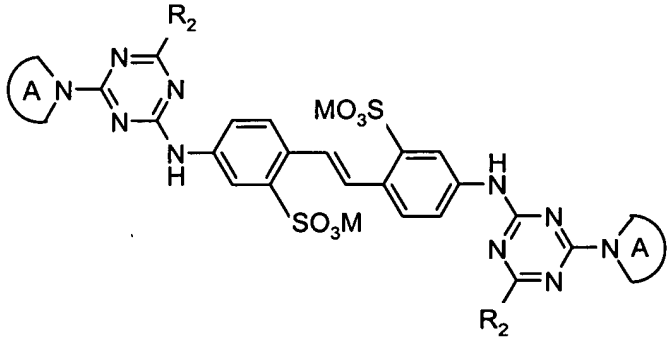
10. **(original):** A compound of the formula



(1b),

in which
R_1, R_2, A and M are as defined in claim 1.

11. **(original):** A compound of formula



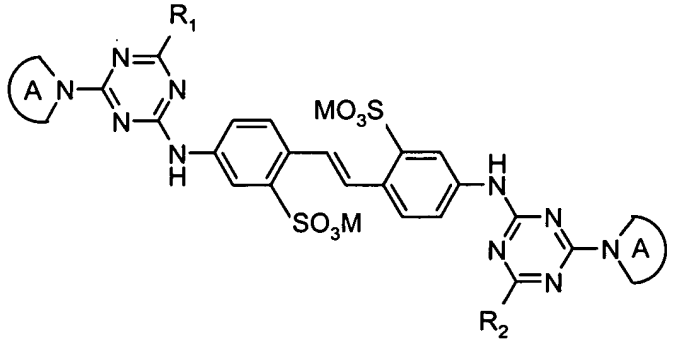
(1c),

in which

R_2 is an amino acid or amino acid derivative from which a hydrogen atom has been removed from the amino group, whereby the residue is derived from alanine, sarcosine, serine, cysteine, phenylalanine, tyrosine (4-hydroxyphenylalanine), diiodotyrosine, tryptophan (β-indolylalanine), histidine (β-imidazolylalanine), α-aminobutyric acid, methionine, valine (α-aminoisovaleric acid), norvaline, leucine (α-aminoisocaproic acid), isoleucine (α-amino-β-methylvaleric acid), norleucine (α-amino-n-caproic acid), arginine, ornithine (α,δ-diaminovaleric acid), lysine (α,ε-diaminocaproic acid), aspartic acid (aminosuccinic acid), glutamic acid (α-aminoglutaric acid), threonine or hydroxyglutamic acid, as well as mixtures and optical isomers thereof, or from iminodiacetic acid or from N-(propionamido)-N-(2-hydroxyethyl)amine or the corresponding propionic acid, the heterocyclic ring

A and the symbol M being as defined in claim 1.

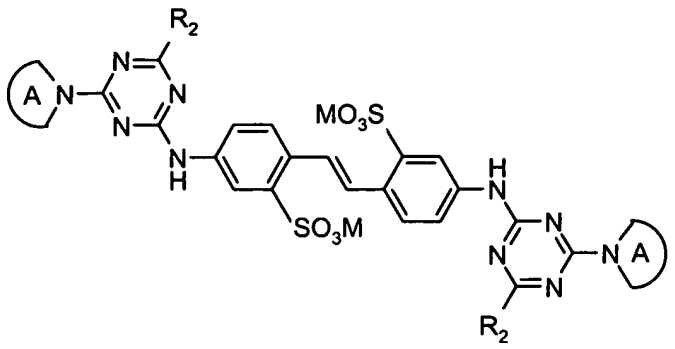
12. **(currently amended):** ~~Use~~ A method for whitening synthetic or natural organic material by treating the synthetic or natural material with ~~of~~ a composition, which contains water, a fluorescent whitening agent, which comprises a mixture of the compounds (1a), (1b) and (1c), according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 8~~, a compound of formula (1b)



(1b),

~~according to claim 10~~ or a compound of formula (1c)

~~according to claim 11~~



(1c),

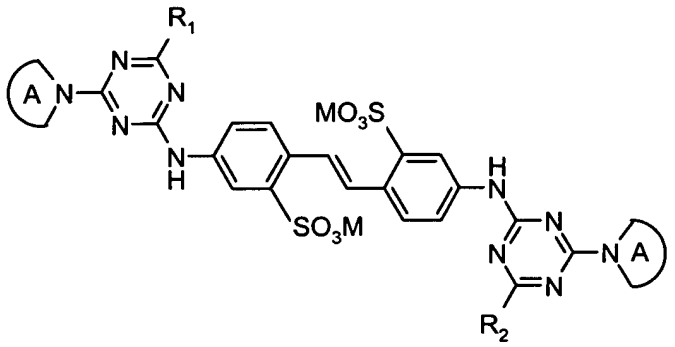
in which

R_2 is an amino acid or amino acid derivative from which a hydrogen atom has been removed from the amino group, whereby the residue is derived from alanine, sarcosine, serine, cysteine, phenylalanine, tyrosine (4-hydroxyphenylalanine), diiodotyrosine, tryptophan (β-indolylalanine), histidine (β-imidazolylalanine), α-aminobutyric acid, methionine, valine (α-aminoisovaleric acid), norvaline, leucine (α-aminoisocaproic acid), isoleucine (α-amino-β-methylvaleric acid), norleucine (α-amino-n-caproic acid), arginine, ornithine (α,δ-diaminovaleric acid), lysine (α,ε-diaminocaproic acid), aspartic acid (aminosuccinic acid), glutamic acid (α-aminoglutaric acid), threonine or hydroxyglutamic acid, as well as mixtures and optical isomers thereof, or from iminodiacetic acid or from N-(propionamido)-N-(2-hydroxyethyl)amine or the corresponding propionic acid, the heterocyclic ring ,

and, optionally, auxiliaries~~, for whitening synthetic or natural organic materials~~.

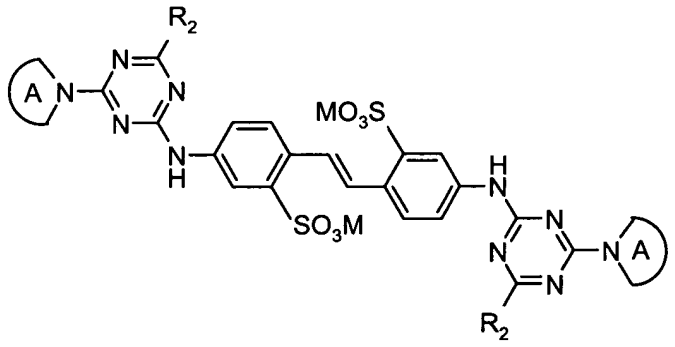
13. **(currently amended):** A method for whitening of paper comprising applying to the paper substrate in the pulp mass, in the form of a paper coating composition, or directly in the size press or metering press a mixture~~Use according to claim 12~~ of compounds (1a), (1b) and (1c), a compound (1b) or a compound (1c) according to claim 12 ~~as optical brightening agents for paper in pulp, size-press, metering press or coating applications~~.

14. **(currently amended):** Paper, which has been optically brightened by the compound mixture of formulae (1a), (1b) and (1c) according to~~any one of claims~~ claim 1~~to 8~~, a compound of formula (1b) ~~according to claim 10~~



(1b),

or a compound of formula (1c)



(1c),

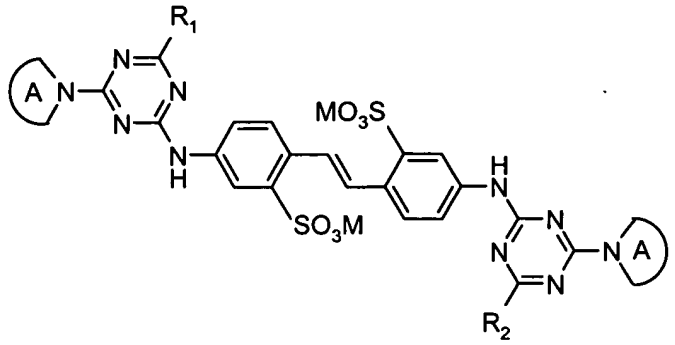
in which

R_2 is an amino acid or amino acid derivative from which a hydrogen atom has been removed from the amino group, whereby the residue is derived from alanine, sarcosine, serine, cysteine, phenylalanine, tyrosine (4-hydroxyphenylalanine), diiodotyrosine, tryptophan (β-indolylalanine), histidine (β-imidazolylalanine), α-aminobutyric acid, methionine, valine (α-aminoisovaleric acid), norvaline, leucine (α-aminoisocaproic acid), isoleucine (α-amino-β-methylvaleric acid), norleucine (α-amino-n-caproic acid), arginine, ornithine (α,δ-diaminovaleric acid), lysine (α,ε-diaminocaproic acid), aspartic acid (aminosuccinic acid), glutamic acid (α-aminoglutaric acid), threonine or hydroxyglutamic acid, as well as mixtures and optical isomers thereof, or from iminodiacetic acid or from N-(propionamido)-N-(2-hydroxyethyl)amine or the corresponding propionic acid, the heterocyclic ring ,

~~according to claim 11~~.

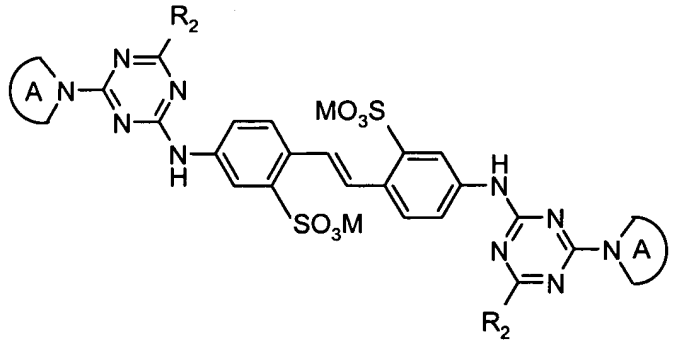
15. **(currently amended):** ~~Use~~A method according to claim 12, for increasing the Sun Protection Factor (SPF) rating or for the fluorescent whitening of a textile fibre materials.

16. **(currently amended):** A textile fabric produced from a fibre treated with the compound mixture of formulae (1a), (1b) and (1c) according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 8~~, a compound of formula (1b) ~~according to claim 10~~



(1b),

or a compound of formula (1c) ~~according to claim 11~~



(1c),

in which

R_2 is an amino acid or amino acid derivative from which a hydrogen atom has been removed from the amino group, whereby the residue is derived from alanine, sarcosine, serine, cysteine, phenylalanine, tyrosine (4-hydroxyphenylalanine), diiodotyrosine, tryptophan (β-indolylalanine), histidine (β-imidazolylalanine), α-aminobutyric acid, methionine, valine (α-aminoisovaleric acid), norvaline, leucine (α-aminoisocaproic acid), isoleucine (α-amino-β-methylvaleric acid), norleucine (α-amino-n-caproic acid), arginine, ornithine (α,δ-diaminovaleric acid), lysine (α,ε-diaminocaproic acid), aspartic acid (aminosuccinic acid), glutamic acid (α-aminoglutaric acid), threonine or hydroxyglutamic acid, as well as mixtures and optical isomers thereof, or from iminodiacetic acid or from N-(propionamido)-N-(2-hydroxyethyl)amine or the corresponding propionic acid, the heterocyclic ring .